

# Panama Canal expansion gets underway

CARIBBEAN SEA  
PANAMA

PACIFIC OCEAN

Panama is to begin widening its famous canal in the first stage of a \$5.25 billion project to double the capacity of the 93-year-old waterway. The expansion of the canal, which handles 40% of shipping between Asia and the U.S. east coast, is due to be completed in 2014

**CANAL EXPANSION:** Third shipping lane to be added by building two new lock complexes

**Water-saving basins:** Move ships between sea and lake level

**Chambers:** Handle bigger ships than existing canal

Canal handles 5% of world shipping

Colon

Atlantic Locks

**Panama Canal:** Existing navigational channel to be deepened and widened

Lock gates

Gatun Locks

**Gatun Lake**

Maximum level to be raised 0.45m to increase canal's water reserve capacity

Pedro Miguel Locks

Miraflores Locks

PANAMA

Panama City

Pacific Locks

## EXPANDED CANAL

**Length** 80km

**Maximum ship size** 120,000 tonnes

— New lock complexes  
— New access channels

10km  
6 miles